

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Dugout Flat Lop and Scatter Phase II

Proposal Number: 1335

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Garfield

Project Manager: Bob Bate

PM Phone: 4356133717

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 8/1/2009

Project Location: Dugout Flat chaining boundary is located on the west side of the Henry Mountains in Garfield County.

Project Description: Remove PJ encroachment into Wyoming big sagebrush communities by lopping and scattering 1,560 acres on previously chained BLM property in the Henry Mountains.

Description of Problem/Need: Pinyon pine and juniper trees have expanded their range due to changes in climate, a decrease in wildfire frequency, and heavy use by European livestock (Laycock 1999). In 1968-69, project area was two-way chained and aerial seeded to reduce pinyon pine and juniper trees from encroaching into Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Currently, the project area is being out-competed again by pinyon pine and Utah juniper trees thus reducing the carrying capacity for mule deer, bison, and domestic livestock. The chainings provided openings in monotypic stands of PJ, thereby providing wildlife habitat by increasing grasses, forbs, and shrubs. These chainings have not been maintained since they were conducted, and currently pinyon pine and juniper trees are encroaching onto the sagebrush/grass meadows, reducing the habitat value for deer and bison. By removing PJ, these chainings will be maintained so that grass, forbs, and shrubs can continue to provide necessary habitat for big game. The ecological process of pinyon pine and juniper trees on a sagebrush meadow is that eventually, without disturbance, PJ will dominate the site. As the roots of the trees extend outward into the sagebrush meadow they restrict and reduce the diversity and production of the sagebrush, grasses, and forbs. As the understory species are out competed for water and nutrients, bare ground is the only thing left between the individual trees. The lack of vegetation to hold the soil in between the trees eventually results in erosion of the soil. After years of erosion the topsoil is lost and a threshold is crossed, meaning the reversal back to a shrubsteppe community is unlikely.

Objectives: 1- Maintain restoration work that has previously been completed.
2- Reduce pinyon pine and juniper (PJ) trees that are encroaching on sagebrush steppe habitat.
3- Increase abundance of grasses, forbs, and shrubs for wildlife.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Mule Deer are a tier III species and project area is in a sagebrush steppe habitat. Henry Mountain Bison Plan

Potential Risks: Conifer encroachment will lead to a loss of understory habitat and sagebrush component. Henry Mountain Bison Plan, BLM RMP,

Proposed Methods: Encroaching pinyon and juniper trees will be cut from sagebrush parks using hand crews equipped with chainsaws and other hand held brush cutting equipment. Trees will be completely severed from the stump with all lower branches removed. Stump height will not exceed 4" and all trees will be "limbed down" to not exceed 3' in length. All material will be left on site and disturbance to browse plants will be minimal. Large snag trees will be left to provide habitat and mosaics in the treatment area. Groups of live trees will be left within the treatment area to provide islands of habitat. Also, trees within drainages will not be cut in order to maintain bank stability and wildlife habitat.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1335.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 10/30/2008

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Photo plots will be established to monitor the change in vegetation. The Range Trend study 15-4 South Creek Chaining is located within the project boundaries.

Grazing Management: The allotment will need no rest, because no seeding will be done. Only trees will be removed. All of the Dugout units are in the Nasty Flat allotment, and there is only one permittee, which is technically, Sportsmen for Habitat. There is a small part of Unit 1 (maybe 60 acres or so) that is in Steele Butte allotment - the permittees there are Sandv Ranch and Sportsmen for Habitat.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Monday, March 16, 2009 11:46:30 AM

Project Proposal

Mule Deer

American Bison

Domestic Livestock

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	1560
Total	1560

PROPOSED FUNDING

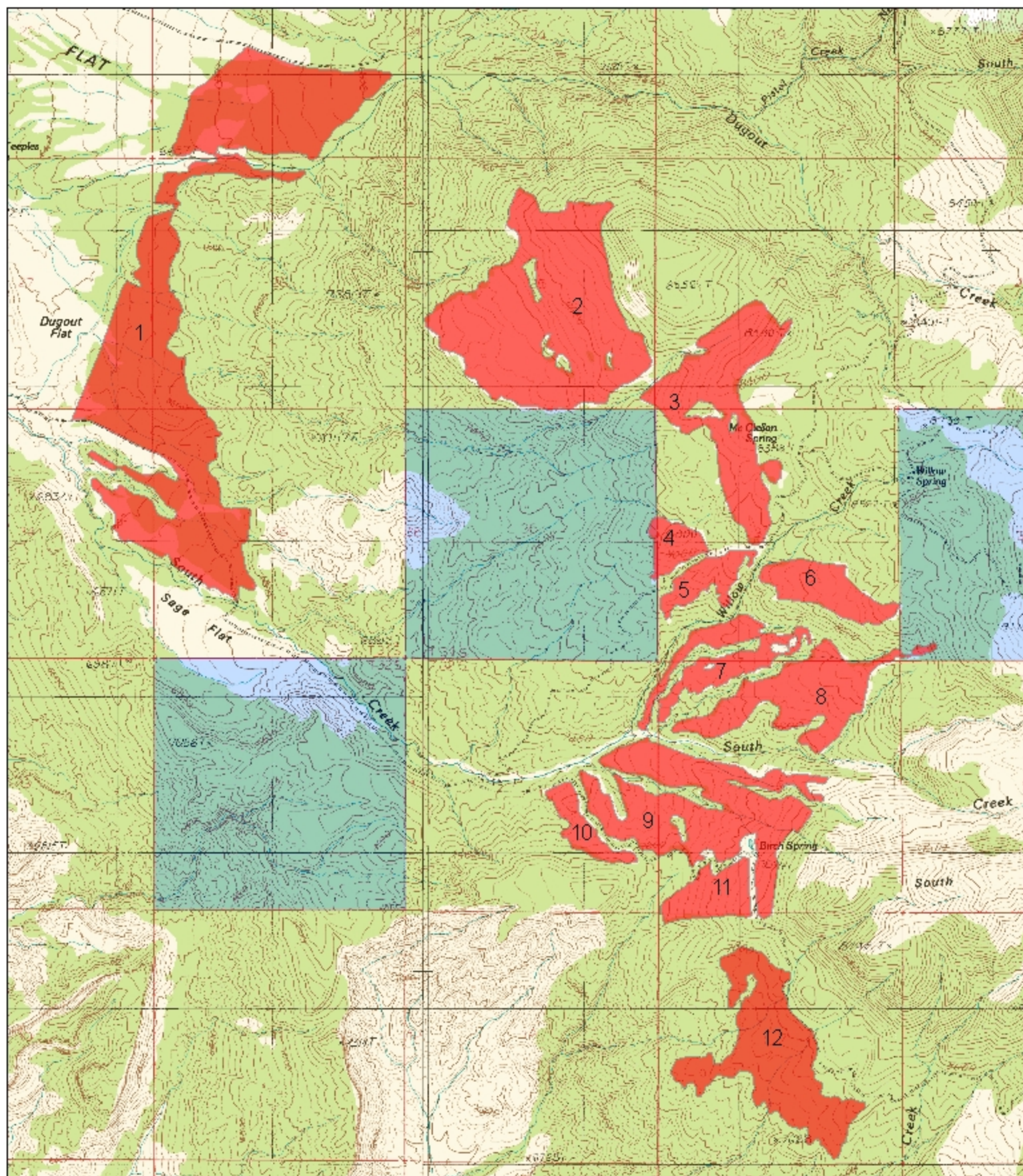
Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM FLR	\$12,870.00		\$0.00
Unfunded Balance	\$64,130.00		\$0.00
BLM ARRA	\$10,000.00	3/12/2009	\$10,000.00
Totals	\$87,000.00		\$10,000.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Contractual Services	Lop and scatter 1560 acres @ \$55/acre	\$72,930.00	\$12,870.00
Materials and Supplies	Flagging etc	\$200.00	\$0.00
Travel		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$74,130.00	\$12,870.00

Project Map:

Dugout Flat BLM



0.6 0.3 0 0.6 Miles

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20 October 2008